

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, OGEN, NP

SUBJECT: PERMITS TO CLIMB MOUNT EVEREST

REF: KATHMANDU 727

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S SUMMARY OF STATUS OF FORD AND TRIMBLE APPLICATIONS REFTEL. WE ARE PUZZLED BY APPARENT INTENTION OF GON TO APPLY DEPARTMENT'S ENDORSEMENT OF FORD'S SOLO APPLICATION TO MODIFIED GROUP APPLICATION IN CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY NEW GON MOUNTAINEERING RULES.

2. SINCE NEPALESE CONDITIONS FOR FORD'S GROUP APPLICATION WERE NOT MET UNTIL FEBRUARY 16, WE ARE ASSUMING THAT GROUP APPLICATION FALLS UNDER NEW GON MOUNTAINEERING RULES, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 26. AS REPORTED KATHMANDU 726, THESE REGULATIONS CALL IN FIRST INSTANCE FOR RECOMMENDATION BY "REPUTED AND RECOGNIZED MOUNTAINEERING INSTITUTION", AND NOT, AS IN PAST, BY APPLICANT'S GOVERNMENT. DEPARTMENT WELCOMES THIS CHANGE SINCE IT RELIEVES US FROM RESPONSIBILITY WE WERE ILL EQUIPPED TO FULFILL. WE NOW CONSIDER USG OUT OF ENDORSEMENT BUSINESS AS OF JANUARY 26.

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3. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE INFORM GON THAT DEPARTMENT

CONSIDERS FORD'S GROUP APPLICATION TO BE STRICTLY A MATTER BETWEEN FORD, GON, AND "RECOGNIZED MOUNTAINEERING INSTITUTION." DEPARTMENT DOES NOT REGARD ITS EARLIER ENDORSEMENT OF FORD'S SOLO APPLICATION UNDER OLD RULES TO BE APPLICABLE TO THE GROUP APPLICATION NOW PENDING. YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT DEPARTMENT HAS NOT SEEN NAMES OR QUALIFICATIONS OF 5 ADDITIONAL CLIMBERS, NOR HAVE WE BEEN INFORMED OFFICIALLY OR UNOFFICIALLY OF ANY ENDORSEMENT OF THE GROUP OR THEIR PLANS BY A RESPONSIBLE ALPINE CLUB. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CANNOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GROUP'S QUALIFICATIONS OR ACTIONS. FURTHERMORE, IN LIGHT OF DEPARTMENT CONTACT WITH ALASKA ALPINE CLUB (REPORTED STATE 17405, PARA 4), GON SHOULD BE AWARE THAT DEPARTMENT, IF IT WERE STILL IN ENDORSEMENT BUSINESS, WOULD HESITATE TO RELY SOLELY ON ENDORSEMENT BY ALASKA ALPINE CLUB. IT IS OF COURSE UP TO GON TO DECIDE IF CLUB'S APPROACH IS SATISFACTORY.

4. RE TRIMBLE APPLICATION, DEPARTMENT CONVEYED SUBSTANCE PARA 3 REFTEL TO TRIMBLE. RATHER THAN SHIFT TO DIFFERENT MOUNTAIN, HE TELLS US HE HAS SENT CABLE TO KATHMANDU SUGGESTING THAT SINCE FORD'S APPLICATION IS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, AND TRIMBLE PARTY WILL BE UP AND DOWN EVEREST BY NOVEMBER, GON SHOULD ISSUE PERMIT TO TRIMBLE PARTY, REGARDLESS OF WHAT ACTION GON TAKES ON FORD'S APPLICATION. KISSINGER

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